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TRANSACTION DATA STRUCTURE FOR PROCESS COMMUNICATIONS AMONG NETWORK-DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS

CROSS-REFERENCES TO OTHER APPLICATIONS

5 The subject matter disclosed in this application is related to subject matter
6 disclosed in concurrently filed, commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Application No.
09/574,334
7 08/XXXX,XXX entitled "Interaction Protocol For Managing Cross Company Processes
8 Among Network-Distributed Applications" (hereafter, "the Protocol patent application"),
60/205,433
9 and to U.S. Patent Application No. 08/YY,YY entitled "Shared Transaction
10 Processing in a Clustered Process Automation Environment". These disclosures are
11 incorporated by reference herein for all that each teaches as if set out in full.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

13 The present invention relates generally to systems that manage transaction
14 processing message flow in a distributed computer network such as the Internet. In
15 particular, this invention provides a transaction processing system and method that make
16 use of a novel transaction data structure for implementing transaction processing between
17 network-distributed software applications.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

19 Business entities have long recognized that substantial productivity and marketing
20 benefits may potentially arise from conducting commercial business activities and